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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC ICRC PHUM PREF PREL SZ EZ  
SUBJECT: CZECHS WILL SOON SIGN THE THIRD ADDITIONAL  
PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

REF: STATE 33441

¶1. (U) Poloff met Milan Dufek, Czech MFA International Legal Department, on March 9 to discuss reftel demarche on the Third Additional Protocol. Dufek reiterated strong Czech support for the Protocol and said it would be signed as soon as official authorization is obtained. On March 23, a representative of the International Legal Department confirmed that Czech President Vaclav Klaus will authorize the signing of the Protocol this week, and the Czech Ambassador in Bern will likely sign it a few weeks later.

¶2. (U) The Czech Parliament must ratify the Protocol after it is signed. The MFA will submit its proposal for ratification on or before August 31, 2006. Though ratification is likely, it could take the Parliament a year or more to do so.

CABANISS